

IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 – 32.

33. (new) A method for coupling a signal radiation at wavelength λ_s , a first pump radiation at wavelength λ_{p1} and a second pump radiation at wavelength λ_{p2} , comprising the steps of:

providing (a) a first and a second port for receiving respectively the first and the second pump radiation, (b) a third port for the signal radiation and (c) a fourth port; and

combining the signal radiation and the first and second pump radiation in the fourth port through a reversal of the direction of propagation of the first pump radiation from the first port to the fourth port .